Editorial

Innovative Potential of Networking

Networking is a growing feature of the increasing number of opportunities becoming available for effective communication. Its enlightened use among scientists is helping to increase their awareness and understanding of disciplines other than their own. It is often at the interface between disciplines that important new innovative steps occur whilst generating ideas for new products and new processes; and networking is also helping to increase the effectiveness of collaboration between academic and commercial spheres of activity.

Enlightened interaction between members of the university and industrial communities has frequently been an effective catalyst for identifying the relevance of new technology and evaluating its commercial potential. It is because universities and industries have different cultures and objectives that such contacts are mutually stimulating. The resulting interchanges, discussions, and collaborative projects provide helpful contexts for innovation.

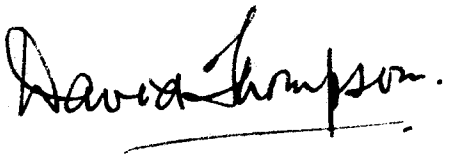
It is an encouraging consequence of these developments that *Gold Bulletin* is receiving papers from authors with training in a number of different disciplines. 'Multidisciplinarity' is a feature of a growing proportion of the papers and highlights published in this journal and we look forward to seeing more contributions of this type in the future. We believe that the continued input by authors from many countries throughout the world also contributes to the global value of this journal.

The Importance of Multidisciplinary Approaches

Emerging branches of science are themselves often interdisciplinary. For example, electronics benefits from inputs from metallurgy, organometallic chemistry, physics and materials science; medical science often requires an appreciation of coordination chemistry, biochemistry, biology and a knowledge of materials; and catalysis frequently receives inputs from all the branches of chemistry as well as metallurgy, physics, and engineering. The multidisciplinary theme applies equally to technology application areas such as pollution control, jewellery fabrication, and refining.

The increasing ease of networking, helped by the various means of electronic communication now available, is enabling practitioners to bridge the fields of metallurgy, physics, chemistry, biology and engineering. One of the benefits will be the diversification of outlets for the use of gold and its derivatives, and this in turn will provide new challenges for the marketing of gold not only as a metal and its alloys but also, for example, as a chemical, drug formulation, or catalyst.

Gold Bulletin will therefore continue to welcome research papers, articles and reviews of an interdisciplinary nature describing new advances in the science and technology of gold; especially when these are likely to lead to innovative new products or processes.



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